

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 19 Session of 2013

INTRODUCED BY GINGRICH, FABRIZIO, CUTLER, MILLARD, YOUNGBLOOD, STEPHENS, KORTZ, HAGGERTY, C. HARRIS, HARHART, CLAY, D. COSTA, COHEN, BENNINGHOFF, DAVIDSON, READSHAW, SAYLOR, MARSICO, GROVE AND RAVENSTAHL, JANUARY 4, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, JANUARY 4, 2013

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
 2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
 3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
 4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
 5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,  
 6 providing for child exploitation awareness education.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
 10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a  
 11 section to read:

12 Section 1553.1. Child Exploitation Awareness Education.--(a)  
 13 Each school district shall incorporate an age-appropriate child  
 14 exploitation awareness education program into the school  
 15 district's existing curriculum for students in kindergarten  
 16 through eighth grade. In developing the program, the school  
 17 district shall utilize the model guidelines developed by the  
 18 Department of Education pursuant to subsection (c).

19 (b) Child exploitation awareness education may include, but

1 need not be limited to, defining child exploitation, recognizing  
2 the types of child exploitation, creating awareness of warning  
3 signs of child exploitation and providing students with  
4 avoidance strategies.

5 (c) The Department of Education, through its Office for Safe  
6 Schools and in consultation with at least one organization  
7 addressing child exploitation, shall develop model guidelines  
8 that school districts shall use in developing the education  
9 program required under subsection (a). The department shall also  
10 provide school districts with age-appropriate educational  
11 materials regarding child exploitation awareness, which may  
12 include educational materials that are already publicly  
13 available.

14 (d) A parent or legal guardian of a student in kindergarten  
15 through eighth grade, within a reasonable period of time after  
16 the request is made, shall be permitted to examine the child  
17 exploitation awareness education program instructional materials  
18 at the school in which the student is enrolled.

19 (e) At the request of a parent or legal guardian, a student  
20 shall be excused from all or parts of the child exploitation  
21 awareness education program. The principal of the school in  
22 which the student is enrolled shall notify all parents or legal  
23 guardians of their ability to withdraw their children from  
24 instruction in the program by returning a signed opt-out form,  
25 after the parent or guardian has been offered the opportunity to  
26 review the instructional materials.

27 (f) For purposes of this section, the following words and  
28 phrases shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection  
29 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

30 "Child exploitation." The term includes child abduction and

1 sexual abuse or exploitation.

2 "Sexual abuse or exploitation." The term shall have the  
3 meaning given to it under 23 Pa.C.S. § 6303 (relating to  
4 definitions).

5 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.